

## Message Text

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14

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 IGA-02 /079 W  
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P 271052Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5670

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FOR SWEET/TEIL, NE/ME FROM RAMSEY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJ: FY 76 AND FY 77 PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

REF: A. STATE 297777 B. STATE 298087

SUMMARY: DURING AID REP'S FIRST MEETING ON DECEMBER 24 WITH VICE MINISTER HILOU, STATE PLANNING COMMISSION, AFTER RAMSEY'S RETURN FROM AID/W CONSULTATION, HILOU STATED THAT SARG "HIGHER AUTHORITIES" HAD AUTHORIZED HIM TO INFORM RAMSEY THAT THE SARG WANTED THE USG TO PARTICIPATE IN THE IRRIGATION DEVELOPMENT OF THE EUPHRATES BASIN. HILOU ALSO STATED THAT AS SOON AS THE IBRD-FUNDED RURAL ELECTRIFICATION STUDY WAS IN DRAFT FORM, THE SARG WOULD GIVE A COPY OF THE DRAFT REPORT TO AID/DAMASCUS FOR ITS CONSIDERATION AND USE IN DEVELOPING A PROJECT IN THIS SECTOR FOR FY 77 FUNDING. ALSO DISCUSSED WAS THE POSSIBILITY OF AID/DAMASCUS FUNDING A TRANSPORTATION STUDY FROM THE FY 75 TECHNICAL SERVICES/FEASIBILITY STUDY'S \$4 MILLION GRANT. END SUMMARY.

1. RE EUPHRATES IRRIGATION PROJECT, SEVERAL TIMES OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS IN DISCUSSIONS WITH BOTH HILOU AND KAHALE (MINISTER OF EUPHRATES DAM), THE POSSIBILITY OF AID PARTICIPATING IN THE BALIKH

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PROJECT (PARTICULARLY UNIT II OF THE OVERALL IBRD-

STUDIED PROJECT) HAS BEEN TAKEN UP. ALTHOUGH THERE WAS INTEREST SHOWN BY THESE TWO SARG OFFICIALS, NO INDICATION WAS FORTHCOMING IN THE EARLIER DISCUSSIONS THAT THE SARG WOULD REQUEST USAID ASSISTANCE. IN THE DECEMBER 24 MEETING, HILOU STATED THAT PROJECT DEVELOPMENT SHOULD GO AHEAD WITH THE EUPHRATES DAM MINISTRY. HILOU WILL INFORM MINISTER KAHALE OF THE HIGHER AUTHORITY APPROVAL AND ASK THAT ALL PERTINENT DATA BE MADE AVAILABLE TO AID/DAMASCUS TO ASSIST IN DEVELOPING NECESSARY AID DOCUMENTATION LEADING TO LOAN AUTHORIZATION AND AN FY 76 PROJECT LOAN.

2. IN THE SAME MEETING, HILOU REAFFIRMED EARLIER DISCUSSIONS ON POSSIBLE AID PARTICIPATION IN RURAL ELECTRIFICATION AND STATED THAT THE IBRD-STUDY DRAFT REPORT WOULD BE MADE AVAILBLE TO AID/DAMASCUS AS SOON AS IT IS PREPARED. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE DRAFT REPORT WILL BE READY NEXT JULY, IF STUDY IS COMPLETED ON TARGET.

3. POSSIBLE AID FINANCING OF AN OVERALL TRANSPORTATION STUDY FROM FUNDS OBLIGATED IN THE FY 75 \$4 MILLION GRANT FOR TECHNICAL SERVICES/FEASIBILITY STUDYS WAS ALSO DISCUSSED. HILOU STATED THAT THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION ALREADY HAD EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FROM SEVERAL FIRMS INTERESTED IN DOING THE TRANSPORTATION STUDY. THESE FIRMS HAD RESPONDED TO A REQUEST FOR INTEREST CONTAINED IN A FRAME OF REFERENCE/SCOPE OF WORK PAPER THE SARG DISTRIBUTED LAST SUMMER. HILOU WASN'T SURE (WOULD CHECK AND LET RAMSEY KNOW) WHETHER OR NOT SOME U.S. FIRMS HAVE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THE TRANSPORTATION STUDY.

COMMENT: WE KNOW THAT TWO US FIRMS, AND POSSIBLY OTHERS, HAVE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THE TRANSPORTATION STUDY. END COMMENT.

AFTER A QUICK TELEPHONE CALL TO THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION, HILOU TOLD RAMSEY THAT THE MINISTRY WAS THINKING IN TERMS OF A \$2 - 2.5 MILLION STUDY.  
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4. COMMENT: WITH THE ABOVE DIRECT INTEREST IN AID PARTICIPATION IN A LARGE EUPHRATES IRRIGATION PROJECT IN FY 76 AND IN A LARGE RURAL ELECTRIFICATION PROJECT IN FY 77, IT APPEARS FEASIBLE TO PROCEED WITH PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT IN LINE WITH RAMSEY'S DISCUSSIONS OF THE FY 76 AND FY 77 PROGRAMS DURING HIS RECENT CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON. OUR

SPECIFIC RESPONSES TO REFS A AND B FOR FY 76/77  
PROGRAM PROJECTIONS ARE SUBJECTS OF SEPTELS.

DECON FOLLOWING DECEMBER 31, 1976.  
MURPHY

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decapton Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decapton Note:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**TAGS:** EAID, SY, IBRD  
**To:** STATE  
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